

## Tips for Eliminating Mosquito Breeding Sites around the Home

Mosquitoes can carry disease and must breed in water that stands. For this reason, citizens need to eliminate mosquito-breeding places around their home.

- Dispose of cans, plastic containers, bottles or any rubbish that can hold water.
- Properly dispose of old tires or store indoors so they will not hold water. Drill drainage holes in tires used for swings.
- Turn over wheelbarrows and other lawn equipment that collect water.
- Change the water in birdbaths and potted plant holder trays twice a week.
- Adjust tarps over grills, firewood piles, boats and swimming pools so water will not collect. Remove drain plugs from boats.
- Keep your backyard swimming pool clean, chlorinated and the filtration pump running to circulate the water.
- Aerate ornamental or garden ponds and/or stock with mosquito eating fish.
- Eliminate standing water on flat roofs..
- Clean out debris in the drainage easements in your yards to eliminate standing water.
- Fix outside leaky water faucets, eliminate the areas where water collects around the outdoor air conditioner units.
- Make sure that all water from sump pumps and back flow filters is drained to an MSD drainage easement or ditch.
- For personal protection, use insect repellants that contain DEET (di-eythyl-m-toluamide). Always follow the label instructions before using. **Pay special attention to the label instructions for use on children.**

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## Mosquito Control Services

- Residents located in the Louisville Metro community may call in mosquito complaints for the Mosquito Control staff to investigate at 502-574-6650.
- Information on mosquitoes, diseases they can carry and mosquito control tips can be mailed to you. Community presentations can also be scheduled by calling the Division's Environmental Education program at 502-574-6650.
- The Mosquito Control program conducts surveillance programs to determine the kind and numbers of mosquitoes before starting a treatment program. Treatment of standing water with products designed to kill the mosquito larvae is known as larvaciding (spraying). Reducing the adult mosquito populations when they reach high numbers in neighborhoods may require a method of treatment known as adulticiding (fogging).

For more information :  
Division of Environmental  
Health & Protection  
502-574-6650  
[www.health.co.jefferson.ky.us](http://www.health.co.jefferson.ky.us)



Are Mosquitoes  
“Buggin”  
You ?



*If you're breeding them....  
you're feeding them !*

Louisville Metro  
Health Department

*Division of Environmental Health  
and Protection  
(502) 574-6650*

## Mosquito : Fact and Fiction

**Fiction:** High weeds and grass cause mosquitoes.

**Fact:** Mosquitoes rest in high grass, weeds, and shrubs or any thick vegetation during the heat of the day.

**Mosquitoes must have water to breed.**

**Fiction:** That creek, ditch or stream running behind my house is the reason why I have mosquitoes.

**Fact:** Most problems with mosquitoes are because of standing or stagnant water, not running water. Water has to stand for 5-7 consecutive days for mosquitoes to breed. Also streams, creeks and some ditches often contain fish and other wildlife that eat mosquitoes.

**Fiction:** I have red, itchy bumps. I must have a big problem with mosquitoes in the area.

**Fact:** Possibly, but other insects, dry skin, a change in your bath soap or laundry detergent or even contact with poison ivy can cause these same problems. If you don't see mosquitoes it may not be mosquitoes.

**Fiction:** Bug zappers will kill all the mosquitoes.

**Fact:** Bug zappers actually attract more mosquitoes and other insects, than they kill.

**Fiction:** My neighbor's pool is breeding mosquitoes.

**Fact:** A pool must be maintained properly. If the pump is not running to circulate the water and there are no chemicals in the pool water, mosquitoes could breed in the pool water.

**Fiction:** If I call the Metro Health Department, they will come out and spray for mosquitoes.

**Fact:** Spraying is not the first line of defense against mosquitoes. It only provides a few days of relief from the mosquitoes. Standing water is the real problem! Getting rid of mosquito breeding sites is the first step.

**\*Are you new to the area, talk with your neighbors. Some areas in the county do have more mosquito problems because of environmental and man-made factors, such as natural wetlands, small ponds and floodwater ditches. The Mosquito Control Program surveys problem areas in the Louisville Metro community and treats as needed. If you see new areas with large numbers of mosquitoes, please call in the complaint, detailing the location. The location will be investigated and treated for mosquitoes, if needed.**

## Some Problems around the Home that will breed Mosquitoes



**Bird baths.** Empty every 2-3 days, or add a cap full of bleach.



**Garbage cans, overturned garbage can lids, buckets, paint cans, tin cans.** Empty water and turn so the water will not collect.



**Tires without rims.** Water collects on the inside and breeds mosquitoes. Remove or store the tires out of the weather to prevent water collecting inside.



**Children's backyard wading pools, toys such as sand boxes, wagons, plastic sand buckets, and toy storage bins.** Empty the wading pools every 2-3 days and store toys upside down or keep inside so they do not collect water.



**Flower pots without drain holes, the water trays under the flower pots.** Make drain holes and empty the water every 2-3 days.



**Clogged gutters, downspouts and knot holes in trees.** Clean your gutters and all downspouts regularly so they do not hold water and fill knot holes in trees with sand.



**Pet food bowls.** Empty out standing water every 2-3 days.

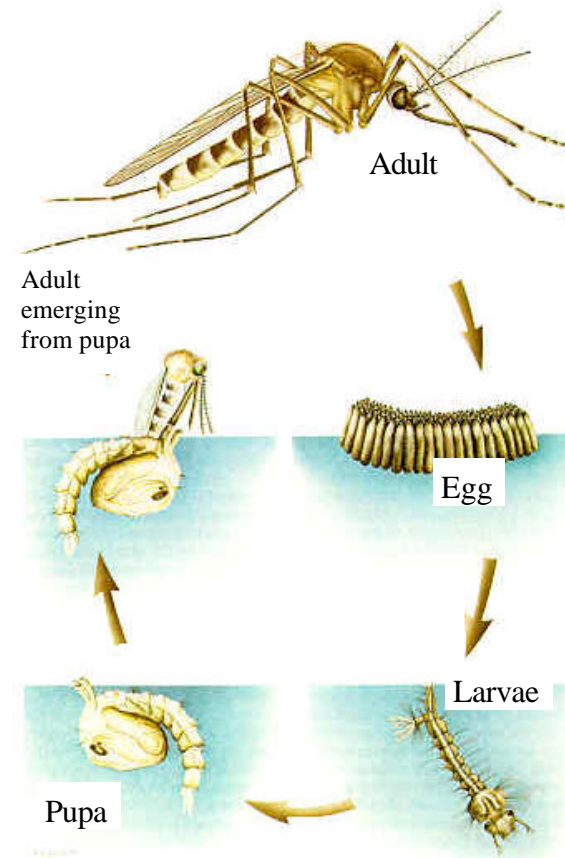


**Cemetery Monument vases.** Fill with sand to prevent water accumulation.

# #1

**Anything that will hold water for 5 to 7 consecutive days. Artificial containers such as cans, trash, old tires and buckets are the # 1 breeding sites for mosquitoes in the homeowner's yard. Clean up and throw away trash, store useable containers properly, upside down or inside.**

## MOSQUITO LIFE CYCLE



**Eggs:** may be found in rafts, several eggs or individually. Eggs are laid in water, on moist soil, or frequently flooded soils, but require standing water to hatch.

**Larvae:** live exclusively in water. These are the "little wigglers" that are often seen in puddles, water in buckets and water in tires. This is the easiest, most productive stage to attack mosquito populations.

**Pupa:** live exclusively in water. Also known as "tumblers", pupa resemble tiny cocktail shrimp. This stage is the "cocoon" stage for mosquitoes.

**Adult:** the only stage that does not rely on water for life and the only stage that bites. Only the female mosquitoes of some mosquitoes bite humans.